

ESTIMATES FOR SUPPORT OF MILITARY ACADEMY,  
WEST POINT, N. Y.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING,

WITH A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MILITARY  
ACADEMY, RECOMMENDATIONS IN RELATION TO THE ESTI-  
MATES FOR THE ACADEMY.

JANUARY 30, 1902.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to  
be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, January 28, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith letter bearing date Jan-  
uary 23, 1902, from the Superintendent of the Military Academy at  
West Point, in which he asks the Department to reconsider its action  
in reducing the estimates for the support of the Academy under the  
head, "Buildings and grounds," in the following items:

Three double sets of officers' quarters at \$22,000 each, reduced to \$18,000 each.....	\$54,000
Three single sets of officers' quarters at \$12,000 each, reduced to \$9,000 each.....	27,000

and to restore the following items which were stricken out:

Converting present convalescent ward of cadet hospital into three rooms..	1,000
Repairs of roads and paths and bridges.....	1,000

The facts set forth in the accompanying letter appear to me to war-  
rant the claim made by the Superintendent of the Military Academy  
that the original amount asked for for the construction of the officers'  
quarters should be included in the appropriation for that purpose,  
and that the other items which were stricken out should be inserted.  
I beg, therefore, to submit the matter with request for favorable  
consideration.

Very respectfully,

ELIHU ROOT,  
*Secretary of War.*

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,  
*West Point, N. Y., January 23, 1902.*

SIR: Having reference to the estimates for the support of the United States Military Academy for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, I have the honor to request a further consideration by the War Department of its action in reducing, under the head "Buildings and grounds," the estimate submitted for officers' quarters, and also the cutting out of the two following items:

Three double sets of officers' quarters, at \$22,000 each, reduced to \$18,000 each	
-----	\$54,000
Three single sets of officers' quarters, at \$12,000 each, reduced to \$9,000 each	
-----	27,000

These quarters are to be constructed on the plans adopted by the Quartermaster's Department for the Army, and the estimates submitted were based on actual experience in the construction here of precisely similar quarters. Three sets of these quarters were awarded to H. A. Cameron in September, 1900, for \$18,366.66 each, without the gas fixtures, kitchen ranges, and electric conduits, and cost completed \$18,886.66, without outside gas, sewer and water mains, roads, retaining walls and sidewalks, and including only the grading immediately around the walls of the building. The contract was unremunerative to the contractor.

Two sets of the same quarters were awarded to Campbell & Dempsey in July, 1901, for \$15,750 each, without excavating and grading, plumbing, heating, kitchen ranges, and gas fixtures, all equivalent to \$20,486.66 for each of them internally completed. To build these quarters within the appropriation allotted it was necessary to divide the contract as indicated. Further expenditure upon the surroundings of these buildings is very urgent. At present they stand in cuts in the rock around the sides and rear and are almost inaccessible without sidewalks. With retaining walls and filling for road in front and embankments half completed, the water and other mains are inadequately protected from damage during the winter. No balance remains from the amount appropriated to continue this outside work. The increase in the amount requested for the adjacent similar buildings to be constructed will in part relieve the existing embarrassment.

One set of single officers' quarters was awarded to H. W. Otis in February, 1900, at \$7,614, without excavation, finishing attic, plumbing, heating, outside sewer, water and gas connections, and gas fixtures. The total cost of this building completed was \$11,000, and although carefully and well conducted this contract was unremunerative, Mr. Otis bidding \$10,116.50 each for two similar buildings in July, 1900, without plumbing, heating, outside sewer, water and gas connections, and gas fixtures, or equivalent to \$12,310 each for the completed quarters. R. McCartney, to whom these two single quarters were awarded at \$8,225 each, was unable to complete them for this amount, and the quarters were, after long delay, completed in August, 1901, at great additional expense by his bondsman. They cost the Government in full, with plumbing, heating, etc., \$10,340 each, exclusive of outside approaches and grading. A large amount of rock and earth still remains about these quarters from insufficiency of funds for removal.

In connection with the estimates submitted, attention is also called to the fact that the rough and rocky character of building sites at West Point adds considerably to the cost of foundations. In addition,

labor and material must be brought here, and the latter hauled up a heavy grade, all of which tends to make building more expensive than at points more advantageously situated in this respect.

## ITEMS STRICKEN OUT.

Converting present convalescent ward of cadet hospital into three rooms .....	\$1,000
Repairs of roads, paths, and bridges .....	1,000

With reference to the first of the above, three rooms are greatly needed in the cadet hospital, one in which a very ill cadet can be placed and where he can have complete quiet, another in which convalescent cadets can study and be away from the distractions of a general ward, and third, a small room to use in the administration, when necessary, of an anæsthetic before a patient is carried to the operating room. The present arrangements of the hospital do not provide these accommodations.

The convalescent ward it is proposed to utilize is a large room on the second story not adapted for a ward as it has no sewerage connection or water supply. It can readily be utilized for the needs mentioned, especially as the south wing of the hospital, which is now under construction, will provide two excellent new wards.

The item relating to the repair of roads is a most necessary one. There are over 14 miles of roads on the military reservation needing constant repairs, which tax our resources in material and money to keep them in fair condition.

If the considerations set forth above are found sufficient, it is respectfully requested that the necessary action be taken to restore the items mentioned to the estimates.

Very respectfully,

A. L. MILLS,  
*Colonel, U. S. A., Superintendent.*

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL UNITED STATES ARMY,  
*Washington, D. C.*

